

this increased information. This past June I met with a group of five young children from my State of Connecticut; they were suffering from juvenile diabetes. In fact, almost every office had a visit from kids from their State suffering with juvenile diabetes.

One young man who came to my office was from Bethel, CT, 12-year-old Jason Baron. I put his picture up. I am giving him TV time. He was so eloquent and remarkable. He could run for the Senate. He is a wonderful, eloquent person with juvenile diabetes. He just blew me away. We got to talking. He aspires—and I see my friend from Tennessee, and he will appreciate this—as he told me, without missing a syllable—and I may—that he intends to be a pediatric endocrinologist at 12 years of age. That is his life goal as a young man with juvenile diabetes.

I was amazed and impressed at the maturity and sense of responsibility of this young man who is managing his disease and educating others, as he was doing on Capitol Hill and as he does at school. Part of his civic activity is to teach about juvenile diabetes.

One of the drugs studied and labeled as a result of the bill we passed 3 years ago is Lantus. It is a new and recombinant form of insulin for type I diabetes which requires only once-a-day administration and results in less allergic reactions. This drug, and others similar to it, could help children such as Jason improve the quality of their lives by introducing more flexibility into their treatment regimes.

While tremendous progress has been made, still more needs to be done, obviously, to make sure children are not an afterthought when it comes to pharmaceutical research. Hundreds of drugs are on the market today that are used in children but still have not been tested for pediatric needs.

We reauthorized earlier this morning the pediatric testing incentive, and the explosion of research it has promised, which was set to expire on January 1, 2002. I am very grateful to my colleagues for the bipartisan support we received.

I mentioned the presence of Senator FRIST. I mentioned his name once before, and I will mention it again. He was tremendously helpful 3 years ago when we originally wrote the bill and then when we watched the success of this legislation, which I already described. We inserted some language to encourage the industry to develop the vaccines and antibodies in the bioterrorism field. Senator FRIST is working with the administration and others of us to develop more comprehensive legislation dealing with bioterrorism. We thought this bill was an attractive vehicle to put on something dealing with this issue.

I thank Senator KENNEDY, the chairman of the committee, for his terrific work, Senator FRIST who I mentioned already, Senator WELLSTONE of Minnesota, Senator HATCH who has been tremendously helpful, Senator CLIN-

TON, Senator REID, Senator JEFFORDS, Senator BOND was involved; Senator CORZINE, the Presiding Officer, I know cares about this as well, and Senator BINGAMAN for their important contributions. I thank Senator CONRAD and Senator DOMENICI who were helpful today in moving this bill along. I thank Senator DURBIN who offered some good suggestions on the legislation as well, and I thank him for those thoughts.

If I am leaving someone out, I apologize. I will add the names accordingly at the appropriate time. I also thank Deborah Barrett of my office, who has been a tireless staff person working with the staff of MIKE DEWINE, with Senator CLINTON, Senator FRIST, and so many others, to iron out some of the disagreements we were wrestling with on this legislation.

Lastly, let me tell you some of the improvements we made in the bill.

We ensure that the new safety information for pediatric studies is promptly added to drug labels.

We require that the Food and Drug Administration quickly disseminate information gathered from pediatric studies to pediatricians and parents.

We authorize Federal dollars to study older off-patent drugs which are not eligible for the existing pediatric testing incentive through a new off-patent fund and creating a mechanism for private contributions from manufacturers to support the study of off-patent drugs through an existing NIH foundation.

We request frequent and thorough evaluations of the program so we can monitor our effectiveness in getting the needed drugs studied and, importantly, to have a sense of which needed drugs are not being studied despite FDA requests.

In fact, to ensure that vital drugs are not being left unstudied, the bill includes a mechanism to ensure that if a company declines to study an on-patent drug that is a continuing benefit to children, the Secretary will make public the names of those must-study drugs that have not been picked up and refer them to the NIH foundation for funding. As a backstop, these drugs can also be referred to the off-patent fund.

The bill creates a new Office of Pediatric Therapeutics at the Food and Drug Administration to coordinate activities related to children. It authorizes the existing Pediatric Oncology Subcommittee to provide recommendations and guidance so children with cancer can have timely access to promising new therapies.

Finally, because the bill will lead to increased participation of children in clinical trials—I mentioned 400 already in the last 36 months—we have requested a study of the appropriateness and adequacy of current Federal research protections for children in clinical trials. I will continue to work with Senator DEWINE and my colleagues to ensure the strongest protections are in place for this vulnerable part of our population.

We have relied generously on the expertise and counsel of Elaine Holland Vining of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Mike Isaac and Natasha Bilimoria of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, who worked tirelessly on behalf of children; Helen Rhee with Senator FRIST; David Dorsey, David Nexon, and Paul Kim with Senator KENNEDY deserve tremendous thanks for their work in negotiating and working out the fine details of this bill.

I again thank our colleagues for their contribution today. I see the distinguished majority whip in the Chamber. I know the media may report nothing much happened today. Well, maybe it did not get a lot of debate, but we passed this children's bill. And I see my friend from Maine, Senator COLLINS, and I want to thank her as well for her help on this bill.

The distinguished majority leader has arrived. I say to the majority leader, this bill did not generate huge debate. We did it unanimously. This bill has already made a huge difference in the lives of millions of children: 400 clinical trials in 36 months as opposed to 11 in the previous 7 years.

So we think we have done something worthwhile today, in the midst of other news, which will not likely generate a headline. The Senate put it on the agenda and did a good job.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. DODD. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. REID. This is another notch in the long line of things the Senator from Connecticut has done for children. Whether it was child care, dealing with the emotional health of children, it is one of many things the Senator from Connecticut has done. I guess this is kind of a celebration of his being a new father. So we congratulate him.

Mr. DODD. I will show pictures, if you like.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I join with my colleague from Nevada in expressing my heartfelt congratulations to the Senator from Connecticut and to others on the committee for their swift action on this bill. This is one of the highlights of the week. I do not know that there could be anything more important than providing good quality health care in all of its iterations to children. That is what this legislation does, and only because of the leadership of Senator DODD. I commend him. There may be a connection between fatherhood and legislative production on children, but whatever the motivation, as the Senator from Nevada has said, no one has put more time and effort and leadership into the issues affecting children than has Senator DODD. So it is a good way to end the week. It is another reason that staying in today was important, and we are grateful to him, grateful to the Members of the committee, Republican and Democrat, for the work done. I thank him.